

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Tsutomu OKADA

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Group Art Unit: 3739

Examiner: Peter J. Vrettakos

For: HIGH-FREQUENCY INCISION DEVICE

VIA EFS-WEB

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Interview Summary

Sir:

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesy of Examiner Vretakkos for granting a telephone interview with Applicant's undersigned representative, which was held Wednesday afternoon, 18 July 2007. The following is a brief summary of that interview.

In advance of the interview Applicant submitted proposed amendments to the claims for discussion. Applicant pointed out how the proposed amendments further distinguished over the applied references. Applicant also presented argument that the claims with or without the proposed amendments are distinguished over the applied references because the loops of the applied references did not have a loop plane that is substantially parallel with the moving axis of the actuating member. Both Chamness and Ohno tilted in such a way that the loop plane formed an angle with the moving axis of any actuating members, and were not parallel to it.

The proposed independent claim 31 recites that the loop central axis of the loop is tilted against the moving axis of the actuating member around a tilting axis generally perpendicular to the loop plane. This is also distinguished over the applied references because in each of the

applied references the loop tilts around a tilting axis that lies in the loop plane, not one that is generally perpendicular to it. Additionally, a new dependent claim 37 was proposed, depending from claim 10, reciting previously unclaimed features that Examiner indicated were not taught or suggested in the references of record/

While the Examiner stated that he recognized the points being made, he declined to take any position on the patentability of the claims as amended. The Examiner requested that the specification and drawings be amended to include an explicit showing of the tilting axis, an arrow indicating the lateral direction of tilting, and the loop plane (the latter of which was already present at 10d). The Examiner stated that he would consider Applicant's arguments further in a written submission.

No agreement was reached.

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DJT:lf

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Torrente
Registration No.: 49,099
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700